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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/809,085

03/25/2004

Naor Wainer

037/03962

7676

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03/23/2005

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EXAMINER

GABOR, OTILIA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2878

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/809,085

Applicant(s)

WAINER ET AL.

Examiner

Otilia Gabor

Art Unit

2878

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 March 2004 and 20 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,11,12,20 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-10,13-19 and 22-28 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/20/04.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment filed 12/20/2004 has been entered.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 20-28 are objected to because of the following informalities: claim 20 includes the superfluous "detector" before the phrase "pixelated detector" in line 2. Appropriate correction is required.

The rest of the claims is objected to as being dependent from an objected claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

4. Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 20, 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Monnet et al. (U. S. Patent 6,465,790).

Monnet et al. discloses a gamma camera comprising a plurality of pixelated detectors (4a,4b,4c...) forming a two-dimensional planar array 4, wherein each detector provides a detector signal responsive to photons that are incident on it; processing means 10c (ASICs) that receive the detector signals and provide processed signals responsive to the detector signals; a substrate 6 which can be a printed board (see Col.5, lines 40-43) on which the detectors 4 and the ASICs 10c are mounted using

conventional printed circuit manufacturing techniques; wherein the processing circuits 10c are mounted on the circuit board 6 at a location that is remote from the detectors 4 (it is in a recess of the board) (see Figs.1-2B). The gamma camera also includes a motherboard 7 that includes processing circuits 7a, 7b, which are in electrical contact with the printed circuit board on which the detector and ASICs 10c are mounted.

Regarding claims 20, 21 the second printed circuit board 7 is connected with the first circuit board 6 without an intervening cable, but via a socket in one of the boards (see Figs. 1-3B).

5. Claims 1, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being clearly anticipated by Mestais et al. (U. S. Patent 6,365,900 B1).

Mestais et al. discloses a gamma camera comprising a plurality of pixelated detectors 42 forming a two-dimensional array 40 where each detector provides a detector signal responsive to photons that are incident on it, the detectors are mounted on a first circuit board 46, and a plurality of processing circuits that are mounted on the circuit board 46 at a remote location from the detectors (they are not adjacent to the detectors), the processors receive the signals from the individual detectors and process them. The connections are done through conductors conventionally made on printed circuit boards.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 3-10, 13-19, 22-28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: There is no evidence in the prior art claimed of a gamma camera with the structural limitations as claimed, namely, the presence of the heat insulating material situated between the pixelated detectors and the processing circuits where the insulating material and the pixelated detectors and processing circuits are spaced apart, as well as the presence of a specific air circulator, air cooler and heat pipes.

NOTE: references Brahme et al. (6,841,784) ; Inoue et al. (6,822,237) ; Kline et al. (6,472,667); and Warner et al. (6,849,849) disclose the same gamma camera as claimed in the present invention with similar detector and processing circuit arrangement and connection, but due to their filing and publication date do not qualify as prior art and thus cannot be used to reject the claims.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Otilia Gabor whose telephone number is 571-272-2435. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Thursday-Friday between 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Porta can be reached on 571-272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Otilia Gabor
Examiner
Art Unit 2878

